Privatisation of some Public Sector Steel Plants

2567. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA :
SHRI ANANTA SETHI :

Will the MINISTER OF STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to privatise some public sector steel plants;

(b) whether Rourkela Steel Plant is one of them;

(c) what are the other steel plants proposed to be privatised; and

(d) the details of the steps taken to reduce the losses of the public sector steel plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) The financial and business restructuring package of Steel Authority of India Limited, that has been approved by the Government, includes *inter alia* to initiate the process of conversion into joint ventures for the following steel plants :—

(i) Salem Steel Plant (SSP), Salem
(ii) Alloy Steels Plant (ASP), Durgapur
(iii) Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant (VISL), Bhadravati
(iv) Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. (IISCO)

(d) SAIL is taking the following steps to reduce its losses :

— Intensive cost control measures
— Improvement in techno-economic parameters
— Fresh investment proposals are virtually on hold except on going Scheme & schemes relating to statutory requirement *viz.* safety, environment, etc.
— Thrust on exports
— Implementation of VRS
— Reduction in inventory.

Increase in the production of saleable steel

†2568. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :
DR. D. MASTHAN :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of saleable steel in the country is likely to increase during current year in comparison to that of last year;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, how much is this increase; and

(c) what is the contribution of the institution in this increase which are making production in private and public sectors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) yes, Sir. There is an increase of 11.3% in the production of finished steel during the period from April, 99 to January, 2000 as compared to the corresonding period in the previous year.

(c) The production in the private sector during the period from April-January, 2000 has gone up by 11.7% as compared to the production during the same period last year. The production in the public sector has gone up by 10.4% during the corresponding period.

Investigation into Expenditure for Modernisation of SAIL

†2569. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH :

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to conduct an investigation into the expenditure of Rs. 12,500 crore meant for modernising the various units of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. during the past three years;

(b) if so, the grounds of such a decision;

(c) the name of the institution through which Government would conduct this investigation; and

(d) by when the investigation would commence together with the date by which the same is scheduled to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (d) Matter is under consideration of the Government.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.